

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A standardized prion preparation, comprising:  
prions obtained from a plurality of transgenic mouse brains; and  
a carrier;

wherein the preparation comprises prions (a) which infect and cause disease in an animal chosen from a human, a cow, and a sheep, (b) which are prions of a known strain, (c) the prions are present in a known number of infectious units, and further wherein the carrier is different from brain tissue of the animal chosen from a human, a cow and a sheep;

wherein the prions are uniformly dispersed in the preparation and are produced in a transgenic mouse selected from the group consisting of: Tg(HuPrP)/Prnp<sup>0/0</sup>, Tg(ShePrP)/Prnp<sup>0/0</sup>, and Tg(BovPrP)/Prnp<sup>0/0</sup>.

10. (Currently Amended) The preparation of claim 1 9, produced in a transgenic mouse which is Tg(MHu2M)/Prnp<sup>0/0</sup>.

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33. (Previously Presented) A standardized prion preparation, comprising:  
prions obtained from a plurality of mice which are Tg (BovPrP)Prnp<sup>0/0</sup>; and  
a carrier;

wherein the prions are present in a known number of infectious units infect and cause disease in a cow and are prions of a known strain.

34. (Canceled)